IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) A method of evaluating the efficiency of a sterilization process comprising:

   a) subjecting a sufficient amount of at least one prion protein degradation indicator in a container to said sterilization process; and

   b) determining the level of degradation of said indicator,

   wherein said indicator is transcribed by a gene selected from the group consisting of SUP35, URE2 and HET-s and is in amyloid form and wherein said level of degradation of said indicator is indicative of the efficiency of said sterilization process.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 3,~~ A method of evaluating the efficiency of a sterilization process, comprising:

   a) subjecting a sufficient amount of at least one prion protein degradation indicator in a container to said sterilization process, and

   b) determining the level of degradation of said indicator,

   wherein said indicator is selected from the group consisting of Sup35p, Ure2p, Het-s protein in amyloid form, and combination thereof and wherein said level of degradation of said indicator is indicative of the efficiency of said sterilization process.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein said indicator is a purified naturally occurring form, a recombinant form, a mutant, or a fragment thereof, wherein said indicator is insoluble in non-ionic detergents, ~~partly~~ resistant to proteases' action, and forms ~~abnormal~~ amyloid filaments composed of β-sheets.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said indicator is a biological indicator, a biochemical indicator, or a chemical indicator.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein step b) is performed by determining ~~the~~ a weight or ~~the~~ a mass, quantifying radicals, colorimetric variations, radiometry, nephelometry, immuno-enzymatic method, ~~Westerm~~ Western blotting, dot blotting, radioimmuno assay, circular dichroism, electron microscopy, fluorescent microscopy, Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR), Congo red binding, or proteinase digestion.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said sterilization process is performed by autoclaving, chemical exposure, dry heating, low temperature plasma gas, ozone-based exposure, or sterilization techniques using alkylating and/or oxidizing sterilizing agents.

10. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said chemical exposure is a vapor or a solution selected from the group consisting of detergent, ethylene oxide, protease, sodium hydroxide, and enzyme.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said amount of indicator of step a) is between 0.1 ng to 100 g.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said container is of a material selected from the group consisting of paper, glass, borosilicate, metal, polymer, alloy, and composite.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein said container is porous, permeable, or semi-permeable.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said indicator is a purified ~~form~~ naturally occurring protein in amyloid form in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* or *Podospora anserin.*

15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the fragment comprises:

a. the first 759~~bp region~~ nucleotides of ~~Sup35~~ SUP35 counted from the A of the initiation codon encoding the peptidic region,

b. the region coding for ~~the first 114~~ amino acids 2-114 of Sup35p ~~SUP35~~; or

c. the first 639 nucleotides of ~~Sup35~~ SUP35 counted from the A of the initiation codon.